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SOURCE Sinkiang Jih-pao

FIGHT AGAINST LOCUSTS IN SINKIANG PROVINCE

Summary: In Sinkiang Province, especially in the northern part, locust infestation is much more serious than last year. The work of locust extermination is being given priority; directives have been issued and emergency meetings called to deal with the situation. Eight Soviet planes, with a Soviet specialist and 21 Soviet workmen are helping in the control work.

The farmers have been mobilized to use insecticides and other extermination measures.

In a letter to the editor a correspondent complains that officials are neglecting to help farmers solve the problem of replanting.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUES INSECT CONTROL DIRECTIVE -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 16, 17 May 53

An urgent directive was issued by the Sinkiang Branch of the Central Committee of the CCP to party committees of all levels on 15 May 1953 because of the serious damage caused by locusts. This was especially true of northern Sinkiang. In the Ti-hua area, the damage was more extensive than last year, with a greater number of locusts and greater density per square meter. Where most numerous there were more than 1,000 locusts per square meter though other localities had only 30-40 insects per square meter.

The cadres must be mobilized, including students in training for cadre work, and soldiers stationed in those centers. The most responsible positions should be filled by the comrades of the party, government, and army.

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Hearty cooperation must be given the Soviet friends who share in the work. All should look after their welfare and be of service to them, thus giving a concrete demonstration of Sino-Soviet friendship.

In locust infested areas, the work of extermination should be given first priority even if other tasks must be stopped.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CALLS EMERGENCY MEETING -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 16 May 53

The Sinkiang Provincial Government on 10 May called an emergency meeting of the heads of all units concerned with the extermination of locusts.

According to statistics, locusts have already appeared in O-min, Wu-su, Sha-wan, T'a-ch'eng, Ho-shih, Ti-hua, Fo-k'ang, Ch'ien-te, Ch'ang-chi, Chin-hua and Sui-lai hsien. These 11 hsien, with 110,000 hectares affected, constitute 30 percent of the locust infested area of the province. This alone is equal to the total area infested in 1952 and double the area anticipated in the original preparations for locust control this year.

YOUTH CORPS LABOR COMMITTEE ORDERS ACTION -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 20 May 53

An urgent notice to mobilize quickly for the destruction of locusts was issued by the labor committee of the Youth Corps on 18 May 1953. Locusts were reported to be more widely scattered and in larger numbers than in other years. Production is seriously threatened.

SOVIET FLIERS TO HELP EXTERMINATE LOCUSTS -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 20 May 53

In response to the invitation of the government of the Peoples Republic of China to come to Sinkiang Province to assist in locust extermination work by use of planes, Soviet experts and workers reached Kuldja on 16 May. Comrade Kotzlov, who is in charge, has had 30 years experience in locust extermination. He has with him a group of 21 Soviet workmen.

The Soviet specialists brought with them large quantities of three kinds of insecticides -- "666," a compound of arsenic and sodium, and a compound of arsenic and calcium. Eight planes have already flown to appointed places awaiting orders.

FIGHT AGAINST LOCUSTS IN TI-HUA HSIEN -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 16 May 53

In five ch'u of Ti-hua Hsien locusts have appeared in 491,590 mou. In the worst sections there are 3,5000 insects per square metre.

An excellent insect extermination organization has been formed with companies of workers for each ch'u hsien, and ts'un, each company with its own chairman and vice-chairman. Their weapons include swatters, locust bags, and nets.

The insecticide "666" was found very effective. Used in 800 mou of wheat, 80 percent of the locusts were killed.

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Not all cadres and farmers were sufficiently alert to the importance of this work. Some cadres were so busy planning increases in production that they neglected insect control. Some were lazy, letting the farmers go out to kill locusts while they remained in their offices.

Some farmers had the wrong viewpoint; they became discouraged because they kept killing locusts but others continued to replace them. Some held to the superstitious view that locusts are a supernatural plague and cannot be destroyed by man. This negative attitude is more to be feared than the locusts themselves.

INSECT ERADICATION IN CH'IENTE HSIEN -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 20 May 53

The serious locust infestation in Ch'ien-te Hsien involves an area of 960,000 mou that was formerly grazing land.

In the case of growing crops, chemical extermination equipment was used so that grain would not be trampled by men using ordinary methods. In areas outside the grain fields the old methods were pursued. Two methods were used with "666," either spraying with powdered "666" or scattering poisoned cakes made of "666" powder mixed with horse manure and wheat bran. These cakes proved more effective than spraying, being 80 to 90 percent effective. One man could scatter these cakes over 30 mou in one 8-hour day.

Other methods employed to exterminate locusts were:

1. Locusts were driven to the center of a field and then fires were started simultaneously on the four sides converged at the center.
2. A pit was dug and men slowly drove the locusts into the pit, repeating the action three or four times, then burning or trampling on the insects.
3. The locusts were caught in bags or nets held by two men while three men approached from the opposite side. In this way five men could catch 10 catties of locusts per hour.

LETTER COMPLAINS OF CADRES' DELINQUENCY -- Urumchi, Sinkiang Jih-pao, 20 May 53

A letter to the editor in the 20 May Sinkiang Jih-pao reveals that some families in the Urumchi Municipality area, besides lacking seed for replanting wheat destroyed by locusts have insufficient food for themselves. The immediate need is to replant crops that still have time to mature. However, the letter goes on to say that the local authorities are so busy mobilizing farmers to kill locusts that they pay no attention to this important problem. The writer complains that although it is true that the hsiang authorities have appealed to the ch'u government, which in turn has appealed to the municipality, the problem still remains unsolved.

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